

Ruby Clark Willingham Memorial Wildlife Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2016-2025





Wildlife Division Chief

10/2/15

Date

**Ruby Clark Willingham Memorial Wildlife Area Management Plan Approval
Page**

PLANNING TEAM

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RCT Chair

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7/22/15
Date

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Unit Chief

Michael Schow
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7/26/15
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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Ruby Clark Willingham Memorial Wildlife Area, #7514
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1975
- **Acreage:** 70 acres
- **County:** Monroe
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**
Manage for wildlife and forest resources with emphasis on forest species and compatibility with outdoor recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**
The desired future condition of Willingham (Ruby Clark) Memorial Wildlife Area (Willingham Memorial WA) is healthy mixed hardwood forest that will provide a variety of public use opportunities.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**
N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** None
 - B. Natural Areas:** None
- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - 1 parking lot
- IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**
 - A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
 - B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities

that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

C. Easements: None

D. Cultural Resources Findings: No known cultural resources.

E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials: None observed.

F. Endangered Species: None

G. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Willingham Memorial WA contains approximately 70 acres of forest and woodlands. Woodland and forest management will focus on maintaining a natural community that provides a diversity of wildlife.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage forest and woodland communities.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy trees and woodlands with management emphasis on maintaining wildlife habitat and improving timber quality.

Strategy 1: Monitor forest and woodland for invasive vegetation, diseases and insects. Suppress any infestations that may develop by using mechanical and chemical control methods. (Wildlife, Forestry)

Strategy 2: Conduct a complete forest inventory on the area that will be used to guide future management decisions. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Implement management that benefits woodland and forest communities, in accordance with forest management plan developed from the forest inventory. Management activities may include, but are not limited to, forest thinning, prescribed burning and snag retention. (Wildlife, Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) A first-order tributary to the Middle Fork of the Salt River flows 0.5 miles through Willingham Memorial WA.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a forested corridor along the stream on the area.

Strategy 1: Maintain a minimum 100-foot wide forested corridor, (where not limited by area boundary), through natural regeneration or planting. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: All management activities on Willingham Memorial WA should follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Management Objective 1: Provide quality outdoor recreational opportunities for area users by maintaining area facilities to provide user access and safety.

Strategy 1: Maintain existing parking lot and bulletin boards to facilitate use by area users. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Keep Atlas information updated.

Management Objective 2: Provide deer, turkey and squirrel hunting opportunities by managing the forest and woodland habitat.

Strategy 1: Manage the area's forest and woodland habitat for a variety of wildlife species. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Work with adjacent neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass or other issues on the area. (Wildlife)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure.
- 2) Acquisition of land.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) guidelines. (Wildlife)

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Terrestrial Resource Management										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 2	X									
Strategy 3		X	X	X	X	X	X			

APPENDICES

Area Background:

The area consists of 70 acres of forested land donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1975 by Mr. Nelson Willingham and Mrs. Ruby Willingham. Mr. and Mrs. Willingham had a passion for the outdoors and especially enjoyed forest and woodland communities. Ruby Clark Willingham was a descendent of the William Clark family of Lewis and Clark.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	70	100

Public Input Summary:

The draft Willingham (Ruby Clark) Memorial Wildlife Area was available for public comment period July 1-31, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Land Cover Map

Figure 1: Area Map

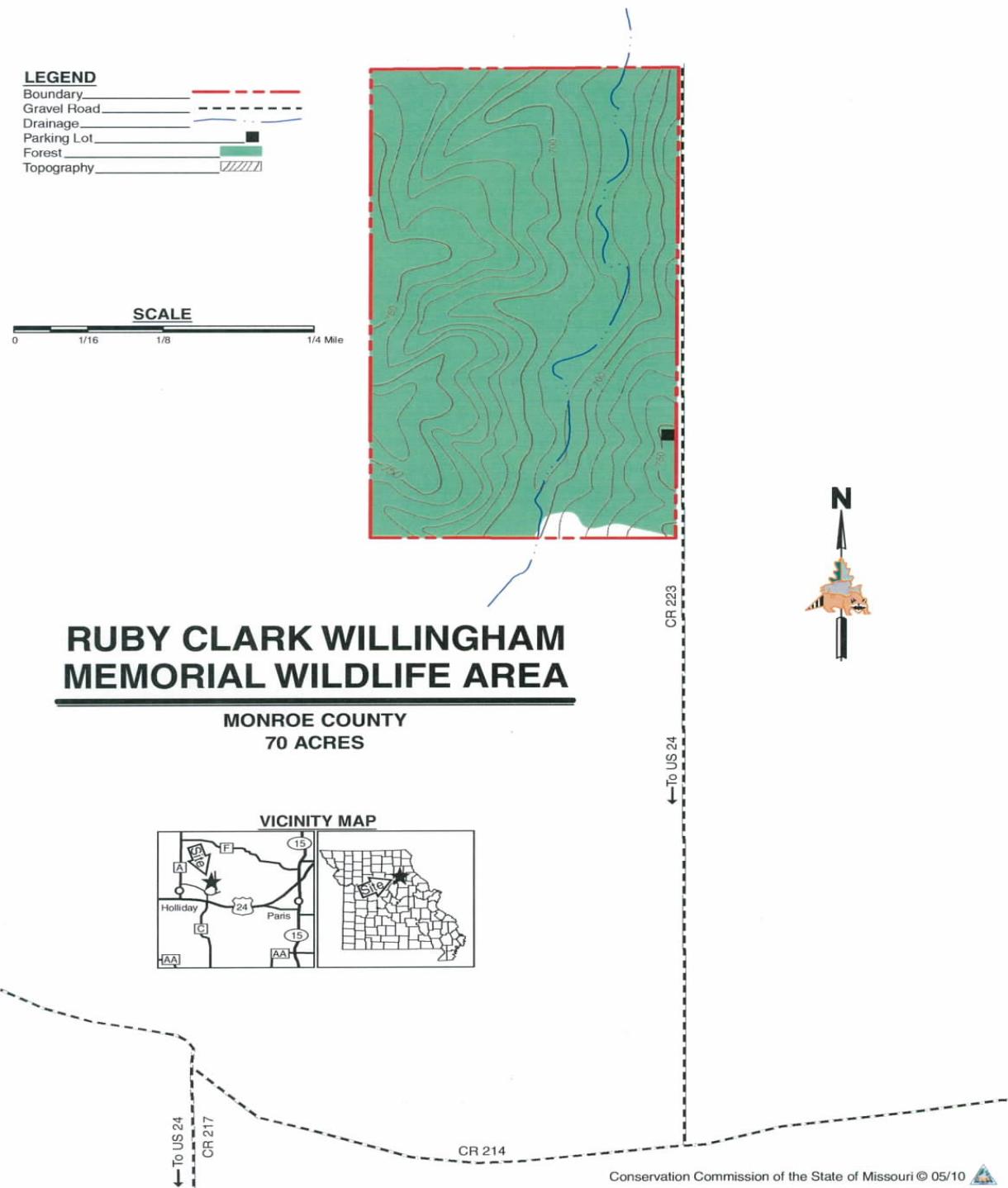


Figure 2: Land Cover Map

